

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 244771

ORIGIN H-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 DHA-05 PRS-01 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 /041 R

DRAFTED BY H:CCUTTER

APPROVED BY H - MR. DOUGLAS J. BENNET

ARA/ECA - MR. GRAHAM (INFO)

-----068253 121840Z /43

P 121830Z OCT 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 244771

E.O. 11652: N/A

TA OREP

SUBJECT:CONGRESSIONAL VISIT OF FOREIGN MINISTER ROVIRA

AMBASSADOR FROM CUTTER

1. DURING VISIT TO WASHINGTON, FOREIGN MINISTER ROVIRA ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR ALVAREZ FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY PAID VISITS TO CONGRESSMEN YATRON, FASCELL AND GILMAN. IN ADDITION, AMBASSADOR ALVAREZ MET WITH A GROUP OF SENATE STAFFERS, PRINCIPLE ISSUES DISCUSSED IN ALL CONVERSATIONS WERE HUMAN RIGHTS, RETURN TO DEMOCRACY AND THE STATE OF THE URUGUAYAN ECONOMY.

2. CONGRESSMAN YATRON. THE CALL ON CONGRESSMAN YATRON, CHAIRMAN OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS WAS PRIMARILY AN EXCHANGE OF COURTESIES. YATRON DID EXPRESS SOME INTEREST IN TH: STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS ON SHOE IMPORTS FROM URUGUAY BUT WITHOUT MAKING ANY SPECIFIC PITCH TO THE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 244771

FOREIGN MINISTER. HE ALSO INQUIRED AS TO URUGUAY'S STAND ON THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES AND WAS ASSURED BY FOREIGN MINISTER ROVIRA THAT THE URUGUAYAN'S STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE RATIFICATION OF THE TREATIES.

3. CONGRESSMAN FASCELL. CONGRESSMAN FASCELL EXPLORED IN SOME DETAIL THE CURRENT STATUS OF HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS

IN URUGUAY. HE WAS ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN THE NUMBER OF PRISONERS BEING HELD IN URUGUAYAN PRISONS AND WHAT THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT WAS DOING TO RETURN THE COUNTRY TO A MORE NORMAL POLITICAL SITUATION. ROVIRA GAVE SPECIFIC FIGURES FOR THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE DETAINED AND THOSE ALREADY RELEASED UNDER NORMAL PROCEDURES. HE STATED THAT ALL PRISONERS NOW BEING HELD IN PARAGUAYAN PRISONS HAD BEEN CONVICTED OF COMMON CRIMES, SUCH AS KIDNAPPING, ROBBERY, ASSAULT OR MURDER. HE STAUNCHLY DEFENDED THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS AND POINTED OUT THAT IN URUGUAY THERE HAD BEEN FAR LESS LOSS OF LIFE THAN IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AND THAT THOSE DEATHS OCCURRED IN ARMED CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN PUBLIC SECURITY FORCES AND GUERILLAS.

4. CONGRESSMAN GILMAN. ALTHOUGH HE WAS TERRIBLY RUSHED, CONGRESSMAN GILMAN WAS BY FAR THE MOST AGGRESSIVE QUESTIONER OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER ON THE SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS. HE PRESSED ROVIRA ON THE NUMBER THAT WERE BEING HELD, QUESTIONED WHY IT WAS NECESSARY AND THEN RAISED THE QUESTION OF A RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC RULE.

5. SENATE STAFFERS. DUE TO THE PRESS OF SENATE BUSINESS, IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO ARRANGE FOR A MEETING WITH ANY SENATOR. HOWEVER, AMBASSADOR ALVAREZ AGREED TO TALK TO A GROUP OF SENATE STAFFERS. PRESENT AT THE MEETING WERE BILL RICHARDSON, BOB BARTON, RALPH MCMURPHY AND JOEL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 244771

JOHNSON OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE STAFF AND CLIFF HACKETT FROM SENATOR SARBANES OFFICE. DURING THE COURSE OF THE MEETING, BOTH SENATORS CHURCH AND SARBANES APPEARED BRIEFLY TO SHAKE ALVAREZ' HAND. THE MEETING LASTED NEARLY AN HOUR AND A HALF AND ALL THE SUBJECTS RAISED WITH THE CONGRESSMEN WERE DEALT WITH IN MUCH GREATER DETAIL AND EXTENSIVE QUESTIONING WAS DIRECTED TO THE CURRENT STATUS OF URUGUAY'S ECONOMY. THE STAFFERS WERE ALSO INTERESTED IN KNOWING ABOUT THE STATUS OF PRESS FREEDOM WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE EL DIA CASE.

6. THE MEETINGS WERE USEFUL IN GIVING BOTH ROVIRA AND ALVAREZ AN IMPRESSION OF HOW IMPORTANT THE CONGRESS IS IN THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS FIELD, ESPECIALLY IN REGARD TO HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS AND IN GIVING THEM SOME FLAVOR OF CURRENT CONGRESSIONAL THINKING IN REGARD TO URUGUAY. BOTH ROVIRA AND ALVAREZ TOLD DEPARTMENT OFFICER THAT THEY HAD SEEN THE IMPORTANCE OF CONGRESSIONAL CONTACTS AND WOULD BE URGING THE EMBASSY TO IMPROVE ITS EFFORTS TO GET THE URUGUAYAN STORY TOLD ON THE HILL. VANCE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE244771
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CCUTTER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770372-0007
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771069/aaaacgij.tel
Line Count: 114
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2f208c31-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN H
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 946870
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONGRESSIONAL VISIT OF FOREIGN MINISTER ROVIRA AMBASSADOR FROM CUTTER
TAGS: OREP, (ROVIRA)
To: MONTEVIDEO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2f208c31-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009